

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGA; PFOR, US, JO, XF, OVIP (BUCHEN, PHILLIP W.)

SUBJ: MEETING WITH KING AND PRIME MINISTER

1. U.S. CORONATION DEL TO NEPAL, LED BY HONORABLE PHILLIP W. BUCHEN, COUNSEL TO PRESIDENT AND INCLUDING SENATOR PERCY, CONGRESSMAN FOUNTAIN, AND MR. JAMES BROWN MET WITH KING HUSSEIN AND PM RIFAI FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR EVENING FEBRUARY 27. AMBASSADOR AND ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WILLIAM CODUS ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM MR. BUCHEN ON PRESENT STATE OF MIDDLE EAST AS HE SAW IT, KING PROVIDED TWENTY MINUTE OVERVIEW ON DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN AREA. HE STRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT WAR AND HIGH HOPES FOR SECRETARY'S MISSION. HE NOTED THAT OIL WAS NOT BEING WELL MANAGED BY ARABS. HE DISCUSSED EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN POSITIONS IN FAMILIAR TERMS. EGYPT BADLY NEEDS AGREEMENT; SYRIANS DESIROUS OF HAVING SOMETHING THEMSELVES. HE TALKED ABOUT RABAT CONFERENCE; PAST HISTORY OF JORDAN, RELATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS; VIEWS OF PLO AND POST-RABAT POSITION OF JORDAN INTERNATIONALLY, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND INTERNALLY. KING SKETCHED HIS ROLE IN GULF AND YEMEN, NOTED HIS FORCES IN OMAN BEING EXPANDED AND EXPLAINED THAT THIS SUBJECT BEING CLOSELY HELD FOR MOMENT. HE ALSO OUTLINED JORDAN'S DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS, ITS RESOURCES OF PEOPLE, MINERALS, AND AGRICULTURE.

3. AN INTERESTING NEW POINT IN KING'S THINKING EMERGED

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CLEARLY IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR PERCY'S QUESTION CONCERNING

PALESTINIANS. KING MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER STATED HIS BELIEF THAT THERE MUST BE A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND CREATED. HE WAS CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT HE THOUGHT THIS ENTITY WOULD THEN ALIGN ITSELF IN SOME WAY WITH JORDAN.

4. SENATOR PERCY ASKED THE KING IF THERE WASN'T SOME WAY THE ARABS COULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN SUCH AREAS AS PASSAGE OF ISRAELI FLAGSHIPS THROUGH THE CANAL, TAKING MORE FIRMS OFF THE BOYCOTT LIST AND PUTTING "ISRAEL" ON ARAB MAPS. THE KING SAID HE THOUGHT SADAT COULD ALLOW CARGOES THROUGH, AND THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MAP ISSUE WAS A MANIFESTATION OF THE EXCHANGE INHERENT IN UNSC RES 242 -- RETURN OF THE 1967 TERRITORIES FOR RECOGNITION. THE ARABS COULD NOT IMPLY RECOGNITION BY PUTTING "ISRAEL" ON MAPS WITHOUT WITHDRAWAL.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT ISRAELI OIL FINDS IN WEST BANK, KING TURNED TO AMBASSADOR AND SAID IT'S A U.S. FIRM, PERHAPS HE KNOWS ABOUT IT. AMBASSADOR SAID WE HAD JUST DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR FROM TEL AVIV AND THAT RECENT REPORTS OF LARGE FINDS IN WEST BANK WERE LARGELY EXAGGERATED AND BASED ON OLD DATA. THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF FORMATIONS FAVORABLE TO OIL PRODUCTION, BUT THERE WAS NO PRODUCTION AND CERTAINLY NO PROVEN RESERVES.

6. CONGRESSMAN FOUNTAIN NOTED THAT HE HAD VISITED AREA BEFORE AND WAS IMPRESSED BY NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PALESTINIANS AND THEIR PROBLEMS IN ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT. KING AGREED WITH THIS POINT AND NOTED AGAIN THAT PALESTINIANS HAD TO HAVE AN IDENTITY, BUT THAT HE HOPED THEY COULD FIND THAT IDENTITY WITHIN A FRAMEWORK WHICH CONTINUED TO ALLOW FOR THE LONGSTANDING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND JORDANIANS.

7. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT ASAD'S NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW AND HIS STATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL. PM RIFAI NOTED THAT APPARENTLY ASSAD HAD JUST DENIED THE INTERVIEW. RIFAI SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE INTERVIEW STATEMENT HAD BEEN CORRECTLY QUOTED, BUT THAT THE WORLD PRESS ATTENTION WHICH HAD FOCUSED ON THE POINT, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS, HAD PROBABLY CAUSED ASSAD

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SOME INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND HE WAS DRIVEN OR LED TO ISSUING SOME SORT OF DENIAL.

8. SENATOR PERCY ASKED ABOUT YASIR ARAFAT. KING EXPLAINED THAT HE DID NOT TRUST ARAFAT. IN PERIOD BEFORE 1970, ARAFAT HAD TRIED TO SLICE AWAY AT JORDAN IN ORDER, AT JORDAN'S EXPENSE, TO BUILD THE POWER AND PREROGATIVES OF PLO. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ARAFAT SEEMED ALWAYS TO BLAME THE

RADICALS AND REJECTIONISTS FOR ANYTHING WHICH WENT WRONG,
IMPLYING THAT ARAFAT HAD MORE CONTROL OVER RADICALS THAN
COMMONLY THOUGHT AND USED THEM FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES.

9. ABOVE UNCLEARED WITH PARTICIPANTS AND SUBJECT TO THEIR
CORRECTION.
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